

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution



Government Constitutes Committee to Examine Issues Relating to Sugarcane Farmers and the Sugar Sector

Posted On: 14 OCT 2026 6:13PM by PIB Delhi

The Government of India has **constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, former Member of NITI Aayog, to examine issues raised by sugarcane farmers and recommend appropriate measures for addressing their concerns.**

The constitution of the Committee follows the decisions taken during a meeting of representatives of sugarcane farmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra with the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The Committee will examine the demand for an increase in remunerative returns to sugarcane farmers, taking into account cultivation costs and other relevant factors. It will **also examine the demand for revision of the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar in the context of sugar production costs, market realisations, and the financial viability of sugar mills.**

Other key areas of examination will include existing **mechanisms for testing and reporting sugar recovery, measures to ensure transparent verification of recovery,** and prevailing sugarcane weighment practices at sugar mills, including the adequacy of calibration, inspection and verification mechanisms.

The Committee will also examine **prevailing practices, relating to deductions from the weight of mechanically harvested sugarcane** and assess the extent of actual losses, if any, arising from mechanised harvesting. It will evaluate the financial impact of the present practices on the cane price payable to farmers and may consider any other related matters deemed necessary.

The Committee will **consult all stakeholders, including farmers' representatives, sugar mill associations, State Governments and other experts or organisations, as considered necessary.** The Committee will submit its report, containing its findings and specific recommendations, as early as possible, for consideration by the competent authority.

The Chairman of the committee, Prof. Ramesh Chand, an eminent agricultural economist and public policy expert, served as a Member of NITI Aayog from 2015 to 2026 and previously as Director of ICAR-NIAP and Member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. He has extensive expertise in agricultural development, farmers' issues, food security, agricultural markets and pricing policy.

The Committee comprises the Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Joint Secretary (Sugar), Department of Food and Public Distribution and Joint Secretary (Legal Metrology), Department of Consumer Affairs as members.

RAHUL TIDKE/ RIYA PANDEY

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